

Department of Children and Families

Bureau of Juvenile Services

Female-Responsive Continuum of
Care

Presented to the Family with Service Needs Advisory Board

November 20, 2008

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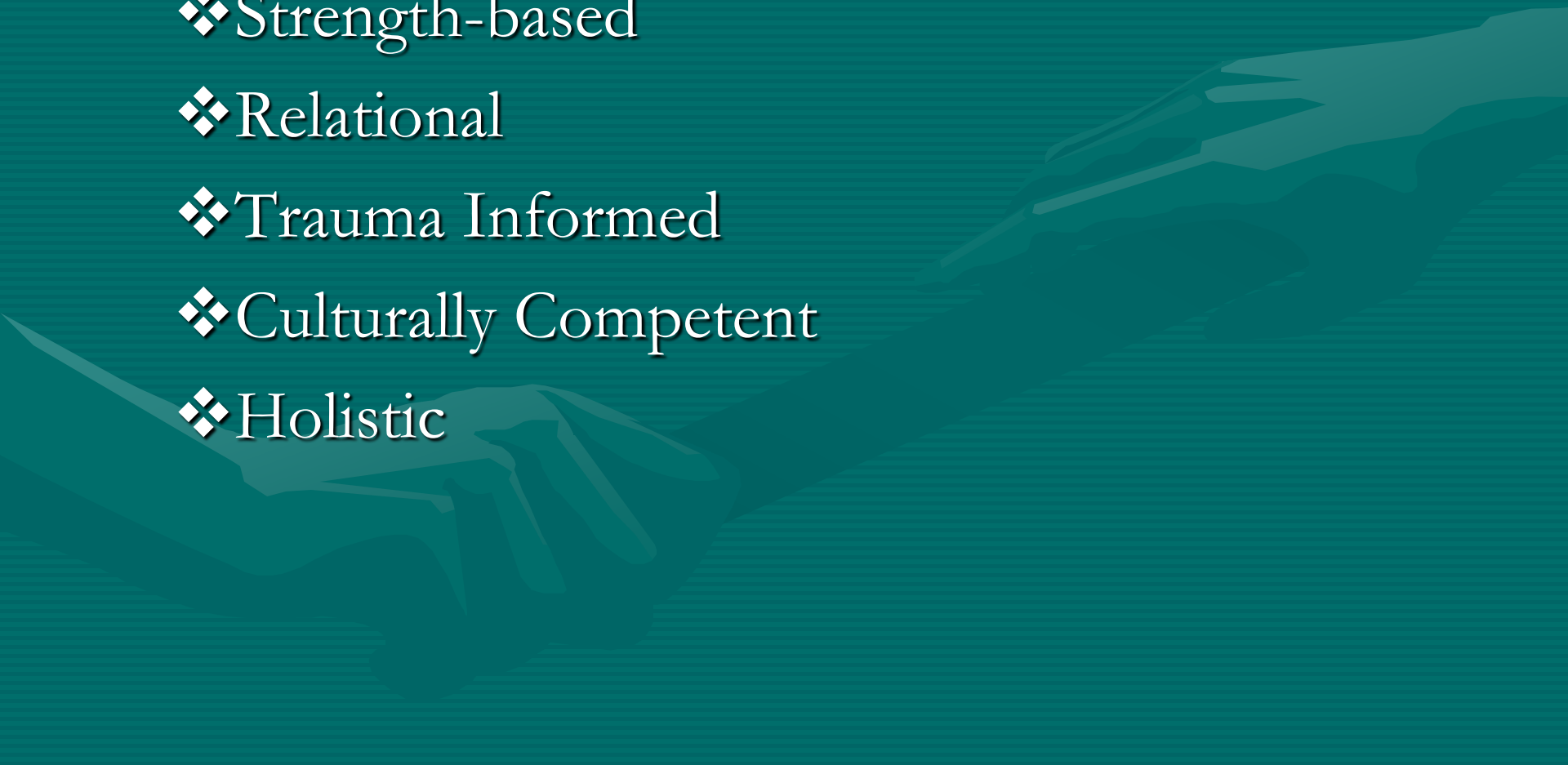
Family with Service Needs Advisory Board

Report to the Connecticut General
Assembly, February 2008

Recommendation:

*Establish and strengthen services for
girls in the juvenile justice system.*

Gender Responsive Framework

- ❖ Strength-based
 - ❖ Relational
 - ❖ Trauma Informed
 - ❖ Culturally Competent
 - ❖ Holistic
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- A faint, stylized illustration of two hands shaking, symbolizing agreement or partnership, is visible in the background of the slide.

Definition Adopted by Juvenile Services:

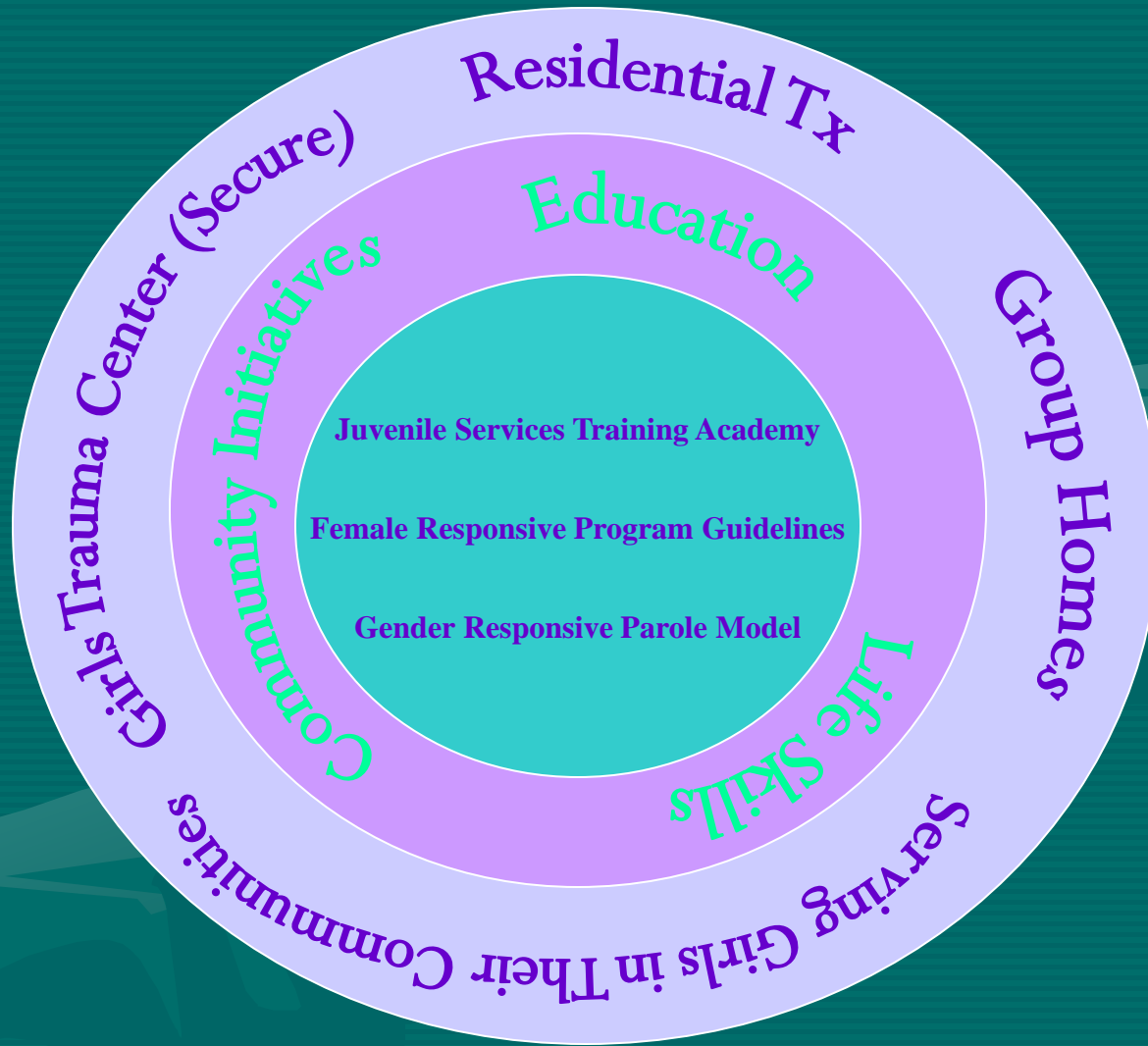
Female-responsive programs intentionally incorporate research on female socialization, psychological, cognitive, and physical development, strengths, and risks to affect and guide ALL aspects of a program's design, processes, and services.

CORE GSPA-II, CORE Associates, LLC 2004

Juvenile Services Female Responsive Continuum of Care

- Juvenile Services Training Academy
- Female Responsive Program Guidelines
- Gender Responsive Parole Model
- Serving Girls in their Communities
- Education
- Life Skills
- Group Homes
- Residential Programs
- Police Initiatives
- Girls' Secure Program

Juvenile Services Continuum of Care for Girls



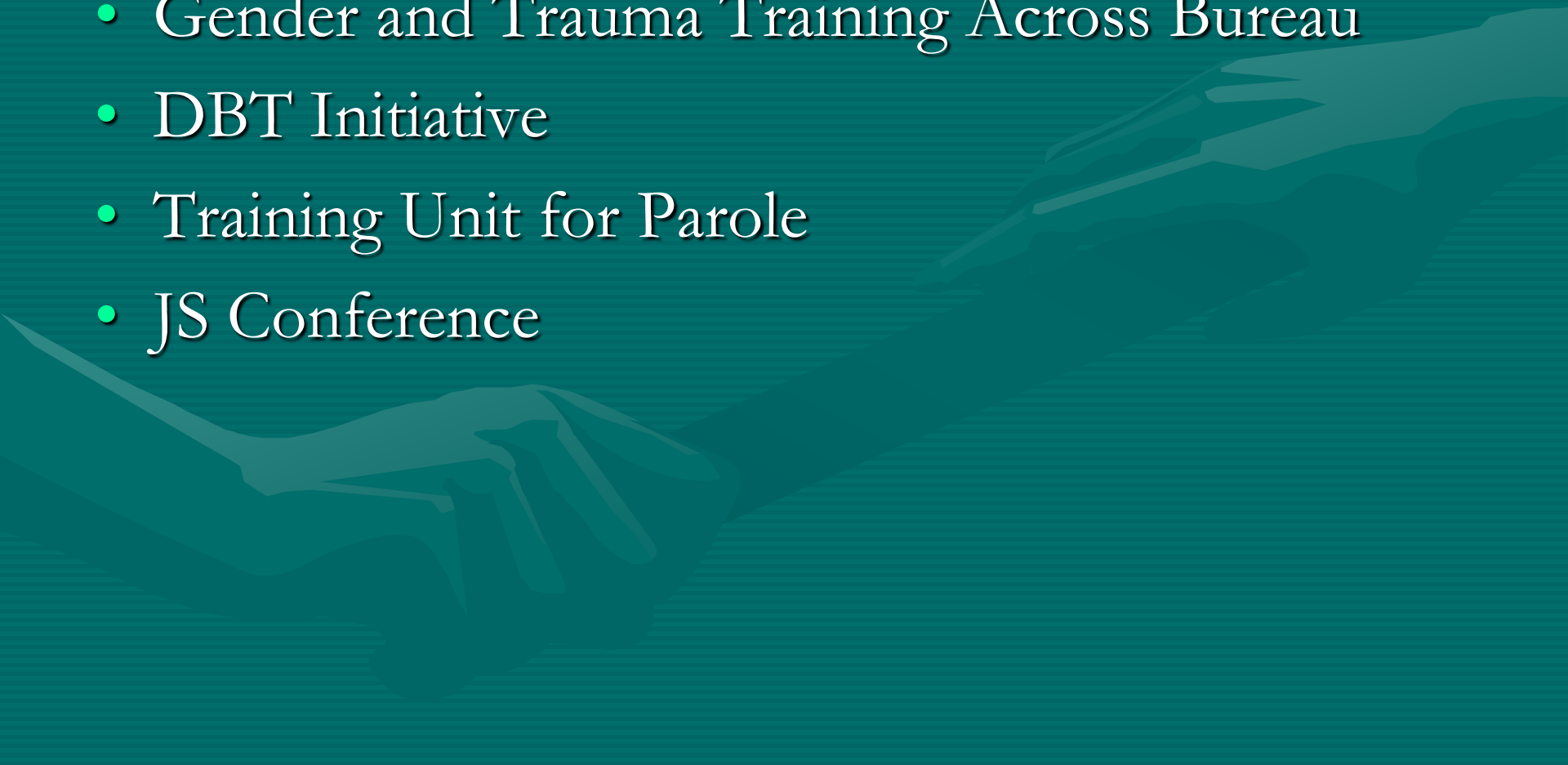
New JS Contract Language

The Girls' Program Guidelines provided by the Department are the basis of the therapeutic model and must be used to guide programming decisions.

The definition adopted by the Department for female-responsive programming is: *Female-responsive programs intentionally incorporate research on female socialization, psychological, cognitive and physical development, strengths and risks to affect and guide ALL aspects of a program's design, processes and services.*

Juvenile Services Training Academy

- New Employee Training 105 hours
- Gender and Trauma Training Across Bureau
- DBT Initiative
- Training Unit for Parole
- JS Conference



Program Guidelines

- Program Guidelines for Girls' Services in Connecticut
- Collaboration with DCF, CSSD and the Private Provider Community
- CORE Associates and Yale University
- Officiated in DCF/ Bureau of Juvenile Services on October 3, 2008
- Next Step: Development of Self-Assessment

Gender Responsive Parole Model

- Adopted the CSSD Gender Responsive Juvenile Probation: A Practice Model for Serving Girls
- Revised based on DCF Parole Requirements
- Risk/ Needs Assessment and Treatment Planning
- New Girls' Parole Unit December 1, 2008
- Monthly Team Meetings
- Regular meetings and shared training opportunities with CSSD

Serving Girls in their Communities

- Over 15 Community Based Programs
- Wide range of programs from highly structured programming such as FFT to grass roots community developed programs such as Inaru
- Working with the local schools, YSB's and various members of the local communities

Education

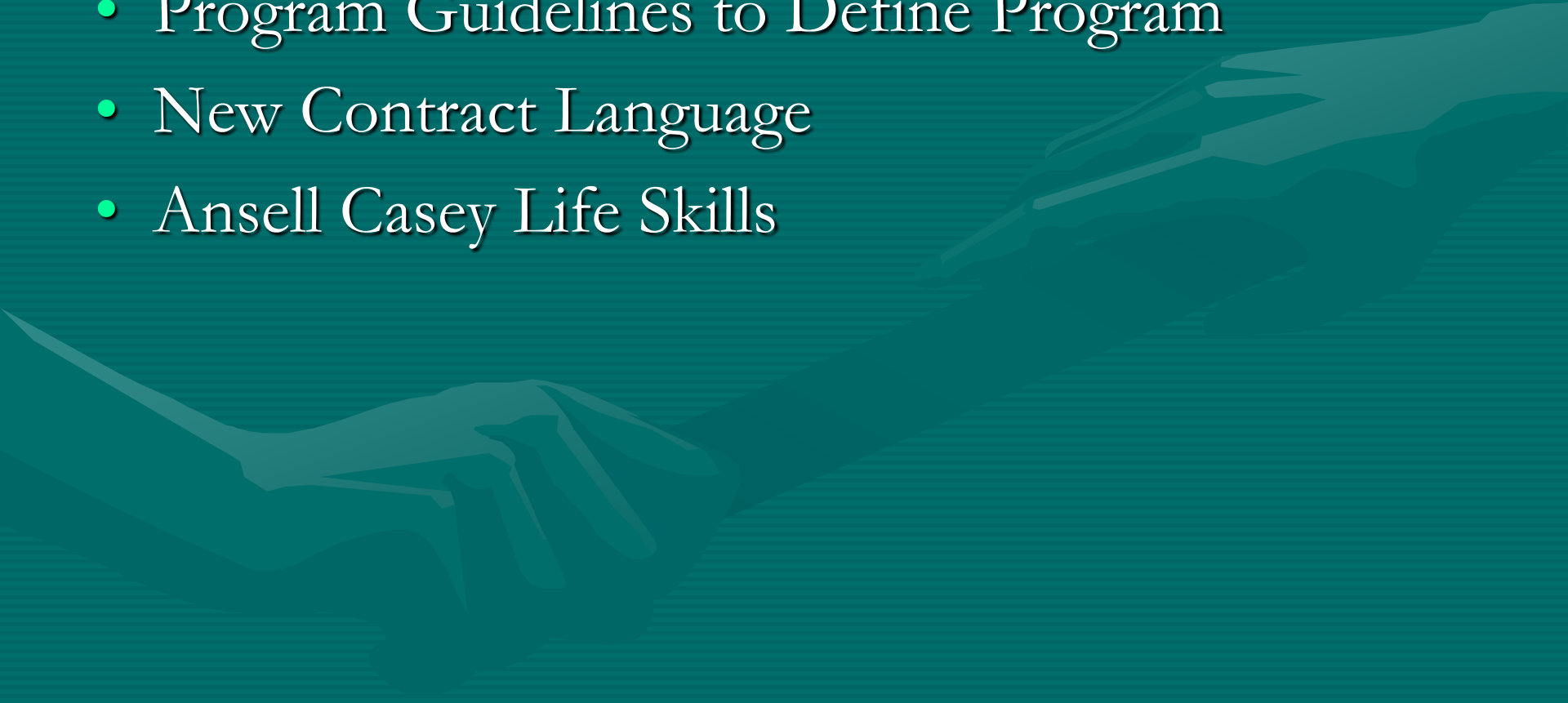
- Support Teams for Educational Progress (STEP)
 - ❖ Educational Advocacy
 - ❖ Transitional Education Program
 - ❖ Substance Abuse Prevention
 - ❖ Employability Skills Development
- Project CRAFT
- Virtual Learning Academy/ Credit Retrieval
- Possible PACE Collaborative

Life Skills

- Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment Plus (ACLSA)
 - Evidence Based Model
 - Rollout at every level of the Continuum
 - Portable – Learning Plans/ Portfolios will follow girls throughout the Continuum
 - Assessments can be given at entry and discharge
 - Special Populations: Pregnant and parenting teens and LGBTQ youth
 - DCF providing an Introductory Training to DOC
 - www.caseylifeskills.org

Group Home

- New Parole Group Home for Girls
- Program Guidelines to Define Program
- New Contract Language
- Ansell Casey Life Skills



Residential Treatment

- Monthly Planning Meetings with all the Providers
- Female Responsive Program Guidelines
- Trauma Informed Care
- DBT
- Ansell Casey Life Skills
- Virtual Learning Academy

DCF and Waterbury PD Initiative

- DCF initiated dialogue with the local PD and provider to affect arrests
- Various meetings with all levels of the Waterbury PD
- Waterbury PD PAL Program: PD has opened all activities to the girls' at SS
- PD visit and eat dinner with the girls' at Stepping Stone
- Chief issued a memo requiring supervisory approval to arrest girls at Stepping Stone
- DCF to train recruits/ officers

Special Thank You to Chief O'Leary and the Waterbury PD

Girls' Secure Program

- Site in Bridgeport
- 18-Secure Beds
- Program to Inform the Building
- Short-term, 30 to 90 days
- Assessments/ Evaluation, Education, Family Work
- Community Outreach
- Design Team(s)
- External Expert(s)
- Advisory Committee

DCF Agency Initiatives

- Agency Training Academy/ Trauma and Gender-Responsive Training
- Contract Language/ Gender Responsive Principles
- Agency Strategic Planning Unit to include Gender Specific Planning

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